

# Polish National Bibliography

POLISH BIBLIOGRAPHY has a long history, going back to the seventeenth century. However, it is not the purpose of this article to examine the pioneer works in this field, but rather to discuss the most complete national bibliographies for different periods. Estreicher's monumental *Bibliografia Polska*, wherein he collated all earlier bibliographical material,<sup>1</sup> should be noted first.

*Bibliografia Polska*<sup>2</sup> began to be published in 1870 and today consists of thirty-four volumes listing material in Polish and about Poland published during the period 1455 to 1881, with four additional and separate volumes covering the period 1881 to 1900. Its founder, Karol Estreicher, published twenty-two volumes before his death in 1908. After his death, the work was carried on by his son Stanislaw, who published eleven more volumes, the last of which appeared in 1939. Stanislaw Estreicher's death in that year left Volume XXXIV, the volume covering the letter "Z," still unfinished, and it is being completed by Stanislaw's son and co-worker Karol. In 1951, the latter published the first part

of Volume XXXIV, covering "Z—Zaluski." It was his father Stanislaw who also published, from 1906 to 1916, the four separate volumes covering 1881-1900.

*Bibliografia Polska* is divided into four parts. The first of these appeared from 1870-1882. It comprises Volumes I-VII. In Volumes I-V is listed, in alphabetical order, material published from 1800 to 1879. Volumes VI and VII contain additions to this list bringing it up to 1881.

The second part comprises Volumes VIII-XI, covering chronologically the period 1455-1889. Of these, Volume VIII covers the years 1455-1699, Volume IX the period 1700-1799 plus additions to Volumes VII and IX, Volume X the years 1800-1870 plus additions and corrections to Volumes VIII and X, and Volume XI the period 1871-1889 plus additions and corrections to Volumes VIII-XI.

The third part of *Bibliografia Polska* comprises Volumes XII-XXXIV. It lists material from the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries, alphabetically arranged. Many of the volumes carry additions to the earlier volumes. An alphabetical index to these additions was published in 1950 by M. Dembowska.<sup>3</sup>

The fourth part, entitled *Bibliografia Polska XIX stulecia. Lata 1881-1900*<sup>4</sup> and consisting of four volumes, covers the years 1881-1900, in alphabetical arrangement.

<sup>1</sup> Those who seek more information on the earlier works should turn to J. Korpala's *Zarys Dziejow Bibliografii w Polsce* (Wroclaw, Polska Akademia Nauk, 1953), 231p. (also available in German translation: *Abriß der Geschichte der Bibliographie in Polen*, Leipzig, Harrassowitz, 1957, 258p.), as well as to S. Wierczynski's article "Przegląd Bibliografii Polskiej (Od poczatkow do odzyskania niepodleglosci panstwowej)," in *Congres international des Bibliothecaires et des amis du livre tenu a Prague, 1926*, Vol. II. Prague, 1928, pp. 695-703. Also, see H. Ulaszyn, "Polskii bibliograficheskii izdaniia za poslednie gody (1898-1901)," in *Izvestiia Otdeleniia russkogo iazyka i slovesnosti Imperatorskoi Akademii Nauk*, VII, No. 4, 366-402.

<sup>2</sup> Polish bibliography.

<sup>3</sup> Maria Dembowska, *Indeks alfabetyczny "Dodatkow" Bibliografii Polskiej* (Cz. III stulecia XV. XVIII) Karola Estreichera. Wyd. 2 sprawdzowe i popor (Warsawa, 1950).

<sup>4</sup> Polish bibliography of the 19th century: years 1881-1900 (Cracow, Wyd. Spolka Ksiegarzy Polskich, Druk. W. L. Anczyca i Sp., 1906-1916). 4 vols.

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As is clear from the above, the arrangement of *Bibliografia Polska* is chronological in Volumes VIII-XI and alphabetical in the rest of the set. In the alphabetically arranged volumes the entries are under author, editor, and title (in the case of periodicals, and of anonymous or collected works of more than one author). In addition, the volumes are intensively cross-indexed, particularly in cases where the names of persons and places are indicated in book titles, where pseudonyms or initials are used, where there are doubtful spellings, etc. The bibliographical descriptions given in the chronologically arranged volumes (VIII-XI) is very brief, including only the author's name, the title (often abbreviated), and the place of publication (abbreviated). In the rest of the set, the description is characterized by a faithful reproduction of the title, together with all necessary information as to pagination, size, and price. In addition, Estreicher tried to include information on the content of a number of books, and to indicate to scholars their particular importance. He also included notes on the authors. In addition to this, he specifies the locations of the more rare and important books, lists the most important periodicals, and includes separate entries for articles from those periodicals which he considered of particular importance.

The period 1901-1928 is one of the weakest points in the coverage of Polish national bibliography. During these years there did not exist any continuous general or official bibliography, and the only coverage was that given by special bibliographical periodicals, put out privately, which suffered from lack of funds and were often suspended. The most important of these bibliographical periodicals are *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny*, *Bibliografia Polska*, and *Biuletyn Bibliograficzny*. These can be supplemented by journals as *Książko*, *Przegląd Bibli-*

*ograficzny*, and *Nowosci Wydawnicze*.<sup>5</sup>

*Przewodnik Bibliograficzny*<sup>6</sup> was begun in Cracow, in 1878, by Władysław Wisłocki. After his death in 1900 the journal was continued by the publishing firm of Gebethner and Wolff under various editors until June 1914, when it was discontinued. As its subtitle states, it was "a monthly for editors, booksellers, antiquarians (bookdealers), as well as readers and buyers of books," and attempted to list current Polish books and periodicals, foreign works pertaining to Poland, and the works of Polish authors published abroad. The material was arranged in alphabetical order by author or—in the cases of periodicals and anonymous or collected works—by title. The bibliographical listing for each item is quite detailed, including author, title, subtitle, place and year of publication, publisher, size, pagination, and, occasionally, price. In the case of periodicals, the contents of each number were included. For each year covered there are cumulative indexes by author, publisher, translator, and editor, as well as indexes for anonymous and collected works. With Volume V of his work, issued in 1882, Wisłocki introduced a section entitled "Kronika," wherein he included short notes and articles about current affairs in the bibliographical world. A cumulative alphabetical index for this section was included annually until 1899, after which time it was indexed together with the rest of the material in the volume.

After *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* was discontinued in June 1914, the listing of current publications was continued by *Bibliografia Polska*,<sup>7</sup> under the edi-

<sup>5</sup> For other bibliographies of this period, especially the numerous subject bibliographies, see the following two articles: J. Muszkowski, "Przegląd bibliografii polskiej 1900-1918," in *Przegląd Historyczny*, XXI (seria 2, Vol. 1), 1919, 359-413; and W. Wisłocki, "Obecny stan bibliografii polskiej (1918-1926)," in *Congrès international des Bibliothécaires et des amis du livre tenu à Prague, 1926*, Vol. II. Prague, 1928, pp. 745-756.

<sup>6</sup> The bibliographical guide (subtitle: *miesięcznik dla wydawców, księgarzy, antykwarzy, jako też czytających i kupujących książki*).

<sup>7</sup> Polish bibliography.

torship of J. Czubek. A monthly except for 1915 and 1916, when it appeared as an annual, *Bibliografia Polska*, in the first two years of its existence, was published by Gebether and Wolff, and afterwards by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow. *Bibliografia Polska* listed books and periodicals, and was arranged much the same as its predecessor, *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny*. Because of the war, its listings were far from complete, and supplements for the years 1914-1917 were published by W. T. Wislocki in 1918, under the title *Bibliografia Polska. Uzupełniona (1914-1917)*.<sup>8</sup> This supplement was alphabetically arranged, without any indexes. A promised supplement for the years 1918-1919 never appeared.

*Bibliografia Polska* was discontinued in May 1919, and listings were continued by *Biuletyn Bibliograficzny*,<sup>9</sup> an organ of the Ministry of the Interior and the first attempt at an official bibliography. The first issue appeared in April 1920, but after the publication of four issues,<sup>10</sup> in which material published from July 1919 to November 1920, was listed, *Biuletyn Bibliograficzny* was discontinued.

A listing for 1920 also appeared in Volume I of the second series of *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny*, published in 1922 by W. T. Wislocki, nephew of the original journal's founder. His attempt at its revival began and ended with this volume, however, as he was forced to abandon it for financial reasons.

*Książka*,<sup>11</sup> issued by the publishing house of E. Wende & Co., was "a monthly, devoted to criticism and Polish bibliography," which first appeared in January 1901, and was continued until the

outbreak of war in 1914. It included articles on various phases of the literary and bibliographical world, reviews, and a bibliographical section, systematically arranged, in which only more scholarly items were listed. In 1914, L. Bernacki, who was the editor of *Książka* at the time, began the publication of a monthly supplement entitled *Miesięcznik Bibliograficzny*<sup>12</sup> which was exclusively devoted to the listing of current publications, but only seven issues appeared, from January to July, *Książka* being discontinued thereafter. A revival of this periodical was attempted in 1922, when twelve monthly issues were published under the editorship of J. Muszkowski and M. Rulikowski, but *Książka* was again discontinued thereafter. During this time, the bibliographical supplement was also revived, and nine issues appeared under the title *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny. Dodatek do miesięcznika Książka*.<sup>13</sup>

Similar to *Książka* was *Przegląd Bibliograficzny*,<sup>14</sup> a monthly which was published by Gebethner and Wolff from 1905 to 1913, in Warsaw. Discontinued in 1914, it was revived in 1923, appearing as a semi-monthly. From November 15th of 1926 it appeared under the title *Co Czytać*<sup>15</sup> until January 1930, when it was once again discontinued. It was revived a second time in 1934 under the later title, appearing as a monthly this time until 1937. In addition to its bibliographical section (which is arranged by subject), *Przegląd Bibliograficzny* is an excellent source for information on the organization of libraries and library life, as well as being a rich chronicle of cultural and literary life.

*Nowości Wydawnicze*<sup>16</sup> was published from 1918 to 1919 as a bibliographical

<sup>8</sup> W. T. Wislocki, *Polish Bibliography: Supplementary Volume (1914-1917)* (Cracow, Acad. Umj., 1918), p. 93.

<sup>9</sup> Bibliographical bulletin.

<sup>10</sup> Korpala, *op. cit.*, p. 161 and W. Hahn, *Bibliografia Bibliografij Polskich*, 2nd ed. (Wroclaw, 1956), p. 17 (No. 152), both claim that a fifth issue, covering the rest of 1920, appeared in mimeographed form.

<sup>11</sup> The book (subtitle: *miesięcznik poświęcony krytyce i bibliografii polskiej*).

<sup>12</sup> Bibliographical monthly.

<sup>13</sup> The bibliographical guide (supplement to the monthly *Książka*).

<sup>14</sup> The bibliographical review.

<sup>15</sup> What to read.

<sup>16</sup> News in print.



supplement to the journal *Przegląd Księgarski*,<sup>17</sup> a publication of the Association of Polish Booksellers which appeared from 1918 to 1950.<sup>18</sup>

From 1920, the last year covered by *Biuletyn Bibliograficzny*, until 1924, when *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* was revived, there was no adequate bibliographical listing published in Poland, except for the partial listing in the briefly revived *Książka* (1922) and in the revived *Przegląd Bibliograficzny* (1923-1930). In 1924, a definite need for a national bibliography was felt, and the Ossolinski National Institute in Lvov revived *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* under the editorship of W. T. Wislocki. Wislocki, who had already attempted such a revival with a volume published in 1922, covering 1920, under the same title, numbered the volume for 1924 as Volume V of the Second Series, hoping to publish the missing numbers later. Of these missing volumes, however, he was able only to publish Volume II (in 1926), listing therein material which appeared in 1921, while Volumes III and IV, planned to cover the years 1922 and 1923, were never published, though they were prepared in manuscript form.<sup>19</sup> The new *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* appeared as a monthly until 1928, when the appearance of an official bulletin for the listing of publications (*Urzędowy wykaz druków . . .*) caused the institute to discontinue its sponsorship. The journal was then taken over by the Association of Polish Booksellers, who gave it a more commercial character and continued it as Series Three, semi-monthly, until December 1933. It was then finally discontinued with the explanation that the official listing had rendered it superfluous.

<sup>17</sup> The booksellers review.

<sup>18</sup> In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Poland was under foreign administration, and, consequently, German, Austrian, and Russian national bibliographies, all of which listed some Polish material at one time or another, should also be consulted.

<sup>19</sup> These manuscripts are, today, in the National Library in Warsaw. See W. Hahn, *op. cit.*, p. 15 (No. 125).

During the years 1924-1928, *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* was arranged alphabetically by author and, in the cases of periodicals and anonymous or collected works, by title, with an annual cumulative index of authors, titles (wherever a work could be attributed to no definite author), and general subject headings. From 1929 to 1933, the arrangement was by twenty-six subject classes, with quarterly and annual alphabetical indexes. Throughout, the bibliographical description was quite detailed, similar to that in the First Series.

The need for a complete and comprehensive official listing of publications was long felt in Poland, with the realization that this goal could not be achieved by private publications, since it necessitated the obligatory submission of copies of all publications. Because of this, the three existing different sets of regulations in this matter imposed by the Partitioning Powers were unified into one by the Polish Ministry of Education on July 4, 1927.<sup>20</sup> All printing houses and publishers were now to set aside a number of copies of every publication for the use of libraries and for the official listing. From July 1927, copies of all Polish publications were sent to the Ministry of Education, which began, in January 1928, to publish an official bibliography entitled *Urzędowy wykaz druków wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej i druków polskich lub Polski dotyczących, wydanych za granicą*.<sup>21</sup> This bibliography attempted not only to list Polish material, but material printed in the Polish language elsewhere, and material in other languages dealing with Poland. In 1930, the National Library in Warsaw, which was created in 1928, took over the publication of *Urzędowy wykaz*, which was put out thereafter by the library's Biblio-

<sup>20</sup> *Dziennik ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, No. 67 (1927), Item 595.

<sup>21</sup> Official register of printed matter published in Poland and publications in Polish or about Poland published abroad.

graphical Institute under the editorship of Jadwiga Dabrowska. In 1930, too, a title page in French was added. *Urzedowy wykaz* continued to be published until 1939, when, with the outbreak of World War II, it was discontinued.

During the first year of its publication, *Urzedowy wykaz* appeared quarterly. In 1929, it became a weekly. When it first appeared, it was subdivided into five major parts: (1) Material in the Polish language (including periodicals); (2) Foreign language publications put out in Poland; (3) Maps; (4) Music; (5) Material in foreign languages concerning Poland. Within each of these groups, material is alphabetically arranged.

This arrangement was maintained throughout the succeeding eleven years of publication, with the following changes. The first grouping, which in the first year of publication included both periodical and non-periodical material, listed only the latter after 1929. From 1929 through 1935, inclusive, periodicals were listed in a separate monthly supplement entitled *Urzedowy Wykaz Czasopism wydawanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, zarejestrowanych w Bibliotece Narodowej*,<sup>22</sup> which, however, listed only new and discontinued periodicals in two groups, alphabetically. Beginning with 1936, periodicals were again listed with other publications, though in a separate section of their own, again divided into two groups: new and discontinued titles.

In the second grouping—foreign language publications put out in Poland—the change was as follows: whereas in the first year of publication the material was first subdivided by language, with items then being listed in alphabetical order within each of these subdivisions,

beginning with 1929 all foreign language material was simply intermixed in alphabetical order.

From 1929 to 1938, the fifth grouping—material in foreign languages dealing with Poland—was published as an independent monthly (later quarterly) supplement entitled *Wykaz drukow Polskich lub Polski dotyczacych wydanych za granica*.<sup>23</sup> The supplement was divided into five subsections, according to type of publication. An annual alphabetical index was also published for it. In 1939, the fifth grouping again became part of the main publication.

Beginning with 1930, an annual supplement giving a statistical review of Polish publications was introduced. It was entitled *Statystyka drukow wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*.<sup>24</sup>

In the first two years of its publication (1928-1929), *Urzedowy wykaz* included no indexes at all. From 1930 to 1939, each weekly issue included a very general subject index. These were complemented, from 1931 to 1937, by annual alphabetical and subject indexes. In 1938 and 1939, no annual indexes were published.

The entries in *Urzedowy wykaz*—which, beginning with 1930, were numbered consecutively for each year—include the standard bibliographical information: author, title, sub-title, place and year of publication, publisher, size, and pagination.

The period 1928-1939, falling under the official listing, was also covered by various private bibliographical journals. Of these the most important is the already mentioned Third Series of *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny*, which was published by the Association of Polish Booksellers from 1929 to 1933. From 1934 to 1939, its listings were continued in a new bibliographical journal, *Nowa Ksi-*

<sup>22</sup> Official register of periodicals published in Poland [as] registered in the National Library (beginning with 1931, the title was changed to *Urzedowy wykaz Czasopism nowych, wznowionych i zawieszonych, wydanych w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* . . . —that is, Official register of new, renewed, and discontinued periodicals published in Poland.

<sup>23</sup> Register of Polish publications and publications about Poland published abroad.

<sup>24</sup> The statistics of printed materials in Poland.

*azka*,<sup>25</sup> which attempted to list only literary, scientific, and bibliographical publications. *Nowa Książka* was edited by S. Lam, and ten issues were published each year.<sup>26</sup> Each issue was divided into five parts: (1) introductory articles (devoted to various aspects of the Polish cultural world, particularly the literary world); (2) reviews of Polish books; (3) reviews of translations; (4) literary criticism; and (5) bibliography. The bibliographical part of each issue was subdivided by twenty-eight subject-groupings, and detailed bibliographical information was included for each item. Two annual alphabetical indexes, by title (for works with no definite author) and author were included. A separate yearly index to the various articles and reviews was also published. In addition, in the first two years of publication there was included in each issue an index of selected periodical articles, also subdivided by subject. A separate yearly index to this section was published, until 1936, when the entire section was dropped, to be replaced by a list of the periodicals received by the editorial board. In 1936, too, an annual chronological review of cultural developments in Poland was included in *Nowa Książka* under the title "Diariusz Kultury Polskiej za . . ."<sup>27</sup> It was also indexed annually.

*Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* and *Nowa Książka* are particularly important in that their indexes greatly simplify consultation for those years when no cumulative indexes were published for the official listings.

The war period 1939-1944 and the first two post-war years, 1945-1946, are the greatest problem of Polish national bibliography. There was, in these years,

no general bibliographical listing whatsoever, and there exist today for this period only subject bibliographies compiled after the war.<sup>28</sup> Also of importance for this period, as well as for the prewar years, is the catalogue of publications of the Polish Academy of Sciences, *Katalog wydawnictwa Polskiej Akademii Umiejetnosci, 1873-1947*.<sup>29</sup> The first volume of this two-volume work includes publications on philology, history, and philosophy; the second covers medicine, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Both volumes list periodicals for all the categories mentioned, and outline the contents of each issue.

It was not until September 1946, that the official listing of publications was restored with a journal whose name combined that of the two most important prewar bibliographical organs: *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny. Urzędowy wykaz druków w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*.<sup>30</sup> It was published by the Bibliographical Institute of the National Library in Warsaw, with the financial assistance of the Association of Polish Booksellers and the Association of Polish Publishers. Unfortunately, the new official listing appeared irregularly and with great gaps in publication in the first two years of its existence, largely because of the inefficient application of the regulation for compulsory submission of copies of all publications. Thus, the first issues published in 1946 were Nos. 1-3 (of Volume II)<sup>31</sup> covering the first quarter of that year. The next issues published were Nos. 10-12 covering ma-

<sup>28</sup> For other bibliographies covering this period, see W. Hahn, *op. cit.*, under the appropriate subject.

<sup>29</sup> S. Mikucki and R. J. Wojtusiak, *Catalogue of Academy of Sciences Publications, 1873-1947* (Cracow, P.A.U., 1948). 2 vols.

<sup>30</sup> The bibliographical guide. Official registration of printed matter published in Poland.

<sup>31</sup> The post-war official listing began with Volume II, for 1946, while Volume I was reserved for the year 1945, which was never published.

<sup>25</sup> The new book.

<sup>26</sup> In 1939, only six issues appeared.

<sup>27</sup> Diary of Polish culture for . . .

terial published in the last quarter of 1946. The missing Nos. 4-9 were never published. Similarly, in 1947 only Nos. 4-28 appeared, covering the months from April to October of that year. From June 20, 1947 on, a decree of the Ministry of Culture regarding the obligatory submission of copies of all publication enabled the official listing to accomplish its task comprehensively and efficiently.<sup>32</sup> The gaps for the period 1944-1947 were filled in 1954 with a supplementary volume<sup>33</sup> listing all material published during that period which was not listed previously. In January 1948, *Przewodnik* became a weekly publication, and, in the same year, the Bibliographical Institute became the sole sponsor of this organ.

The new *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* lists books, pamphlets, maps, music, engravings, and new, revived, and discontinued periodicals. In its first three years, *Przewodnik* also attempted the listing of "Polonica" from abroad, but in 1949 this was discontinued and only material published in Poland has been included since then. The material was first divided by twenty-eight categories, and, beginning with 1949, by twenty-five, within each of which items are arranged in alphabetical order. In 1950 and 1951, other minor changes were introduced in the arrangement of material, these being largely concerned with the naming and ordering of the categories. Periodicals are listed at the end of each appropriate category, but only upon their first appearance or discontinuation.

In its first two years, only weekly indexes were issued. Beginning with 1948,

and up until the present time, cumulative annual indexes by author and title, and to periodicals, engravings, illustrations, illustrators, maps, and music, have been issued. From 1951 on, weekly indexes were discontinued and quarterly indexes were published instead.

The bibliographical descriptions in the new *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* include author, title, place and date of publication, publisher, size, pagination, price, and caption title. The majority of the entries carry brief annotations, generally indicating the sort of library for which the item is suited. An index to these recommendations by type of library is included at the end of each issue. Wherever a publication includes the work of more than one author, the contents are given. In the case of translations, the original title is included.

Each entry in *Przewodnik* is given a consecutive number for its year of publication. This number serves as a guide for the purchase of printed catalogue cards. Wherever an "o" is included before the number, no printed cards are available. Since 1949, each item has also been provided with a decimal classification.

At the present time, the Bibliographical Institute is preparing a retrospective national bibliography for the years 1901-1955—in other words, a continuation of Estreicher's work.<sup>34</sup> This project was begun before the Second World War under the editorship of Jan Muszkowski, and was completed for the period 1901-1925. Most unfortunately, however, almost the entire manuscript was burned during the War. Once this work is completed by the institute, Poland will have one of the most thorough of bibliographical coverages.

<sup>32</sup> *Dziennik ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, No. 64 (1947), Item 374.

<sup>33</sup> *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny. Urzędowy wykaz druków wydanych w Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej 1944-1947* (Warsaw, Biblioteka Narodowa, 1954), p. 261.

<sup>34</sup> M. Dembowska, "Bibliografia polska 1901-1950," *Bibliotekarz*, Nos. 3-4 (1951).



Thus, at present, material published from the fifteenth to the end of the nineteenth century is well covered by the works of the Estreicher family. The first twenty-seven years of the twentieth century are covered with varying degrees of completeness in different bibli-

ographical journals. From 1928 on, with an interruption from August 1939, to September 1946, the official listing has continued to function up until the present time. The retrospective bibliography for 1901-1955 will complete this picture of Polish bibliography.

## The Heart of the Project

The popular notion of the scientist—the Big Brain thinking in the academic equivalent of an isolation booth or brooding over the test tubes in a stainless-steel laboratory—leaves at least one indispensable element of research out of the picture, namely, scientific literature. Yet such literature is at the heart of almost any research and development project. It is essential for the scientist, whether he is working in theoretical or applied fields, not only to keep up with developments in a general way but to seek specific data, to learn where others have been so that he can see more clearly where he is going.

It was possible a century and a half ago for Thomas Jefferson, no mean scientist himself, to be quite well informed about "natural philosophy," as science was then called, by gathering together for his private library—and reading of course—less than 100 volumes. Those days are long in the past. There has been such proliferation of scientific literature that today corporate bodies—research libraries, both highly specialized and comprehensive—must serve the scientific community.

The Library of Congress as the Government's oldest and largest library has long had special responsibilities for serving the Nation through service to Congress, to other Government agencies, and to scholarly groups in many fields. . . . Materials on science and technology constitute a very large segment of our holdings. We now have nearly 1,500,000 volumes in these fields. In addition, we receive about 15,000 different scientific journals. Although we believe that we get the most important ones, the world output of such journals is 50,000 titles and they contain a total of about 2 million articles a year. Our collection of both domestic and foreign technical reports—the newest and most fugitive form of scientific literature—now numbers 300,000. It may interest you to know that a recent analysis of the Soviet national bibliography showed that the Library of Congress received about 60 per cent of the materials currently published in the USSR in the natural sciences and about 40 per cent of those published in technology.

Our comprehensive collections, important in both scope and depth, could only have resulted from years of effort and the exchange facilities enjoyed by a national library. They could quickly lose their immediate utility, however, if the Library of Congress did not constantly strive to keep them up to date. One of our major services to the Nation, therefore, is in acquiring scientific and technical materials on an ever-broadening scale and thus creating a vast reservoir from which all may draw.—*Testimony of the Librarian of Congress, L. Quincy Mumford, on S. 3126 presented before the Subcommittee on Reorganization of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, June 25, 1958.*